

**Remarks:**

1. Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Iochi et al. (5,739,421).
  - a. Re claim 1, the Examiner has interpreted the pressure sensor (18) of Iochi et al. as being “supported on the valve housing” because there exists a direct and physical connection between the valve housing (15) and the pressure sensor (18)”.

However, applicants contend that there is nothing in the cited prior art reference that teaches or suggests that the sensor is supported on the valve housing. Iochi clearly shows them as two separate structures that are each connected to a fluid transfer conduit. As a matter of fact, the valve housing may be located as far away from the sensor as 10 or 12 feet. This causes well-known problems in obtaining a true and accurate reading of the pressure. As disclosed in the instant application on page 5, last paragraph “In cross-reference to Figures 2 and 3, the valve housing 22 defines a cavity 44, and the pressure sensor 40 communicates with the cavity 44 through an orifice 46. In the preferred embodiment, the valve housing 22 is formed with a guidance rib 48, and the orifice 46 is formed through both the wall of the valve housing 22 and the guidance rib 48 as shown. As understood by the present invention, by forming the orifice 46 through the guidance rib 48, the pressure sensor 40 is better shielded from any turbulence-induced pressure fluctuations that might exist within the cavity 44, facilitating a more constant and true pressure

signal output. The size of the orifice 46 is established to be sufficiently large to equalize pressure between the housings 22, 36 while minimizing the transfer of pressure fluctuations from the cavity 44 to the sensor 40."

In the cited prior art reference, the separate structures are not in direct physical contact with each other and it would therefore have not been obvious to combine them, nor should they be read that way. (See MPEP 2144.04, V., B. MAKING INTEGRAL). Applicants have not merely taken two components that were previously separate but attached to each other and made them integral, but have enhanced the functionality of the system by integrating two remotely mounted components and eliminating the variation in pressure readings due to the prior art means of remotely mounting. Applicants therefore contend that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

b. Re claims 2-5, as these claims depend from claim 1, for at least the reasons cited above, they are in condition for allowance.

c. Re claim 8, as stated above in point 1(a), Iochi does not teach or disclose having the leak sensing means supported on the selectively establishing means.

Therefore, applicants contend that claim 8 is now in condition for allowance.

d. Re claim 9, as this claim depends from claim 8, for at least the reasons cited above, it is in condition for allowance.

e. Re claim 16, as stated above in point 1(a), Iochi does not teach or disclose having the pressure sensor supported by the valve housing.

- f. Re claim 17, as this claim depends from claim 16, for at least the reasons cited above, it is in condition for allowance
- 2. Claims 6, 7, 10-15, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iochi et al. (5,739,421).
  - a. All of these claims are dependent on one of dependent claims 1, 8, and 16. Applicants contend that there is nothing in the cited prior art reference that teaches or suggests that the sensor is supported by the valve housing or mounted on the valve housing. Iochi clearly shows them as two separate structures that are each connected to a fluid transfer conduit. The separate structures are not in direct physical contact with each other in the cited reference and it would therefore have not been obvious to combine them, nor should they be read that way. (See MPEP 2144.04, V., B MAKING INTEGRAL.). Consequently, applicants contend that all of these claims are in condition for allowance.

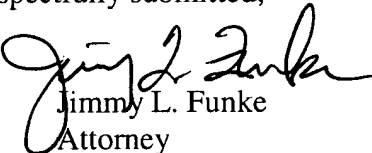
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's detailed consideration of the application and look forward to a timely Notice of Allowance.

Appl. No. 10/649,453  
Amdt. Dated 26-APR-2005  
Reply to Office Action of March 1, 2005

Although no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit  
Account No. 50-0831 for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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